

Office of Environmental Assessment

Five Year Strategic Plan

July, 2000 – June, 2005

Agency Number: 13-853
Program: Environmental Assessment
Program Authorization: La. R.S. 30:2011(C)(1)(b)

Vision

The Environmental Assessment Program will protect human health and the environment through effective planning, fair regulations and thoughtful thorough assessment of environmental conditions of land, water and air. Assessment activities will define environmental problems and direct the efficient and effective uses to resources through planning to reclaim, improve and protect the environment of Louisiana.

Mission

The mission of the Environmental Assessment Program is to maintain and enhance the environment of the state in order to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Louisiana. This program provides an efficient means to develop, implement and enforce regulations, inventory and monitor emissions, pursue efforts to prevent and to remediate contamination of the environment. This program pursues a unified approach to remediation, simplifies and clarifies the scope of the remediation process, increases protection of human health and the environment by addressing remediation consistently, allows for fast track remediation, where applicable, reduces review time and labor, increases responsiveness to the public and regulatee, and increases accountability.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Environmental Assessment Program is to apply the best science and technology to define environmental problems and to apply effective regulatory and remediation solutions in a fair, honest and consistent manner.

Goal

Improve the state of environmental protection through effective planning, evaluation and monitoring of the environment.

Objective 1:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through environmental planning activities, will review 95% of the environmental data for air and water to define environmental problems and facilitate planning activities to develop regulatory and pollution control strategies to meet time schedules and requirements of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 1.1 Accomplish air quality planning as required in the Clean Air Act by the incorporation of pollution reduction strategies and for areas not meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, into State Implementation Plan and the promulgation of emission control regulations to attain the standards.
- 1.2 Accomplish Water Quality Planning and Assessment as required under Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act by compiling and assessing technical data on impaired water bodies to show where Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) need to be established and incorporation of developed TMDLs into the Water Quality Management Plan (Vision 2020 Objective 3.4.9).
- 1.3 Accomplish Non-Point Source assessment and management updates as required under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act by implementing demonstration projects for Best Management Practices.
- 1.4 Continue to develop a Water Quality Standard to maintain and adjust criteria to protect the designated uses of waters of the State (Vision 2020 Objective 3.4.8).
- 1.5 Post mercury fish tissue sample results and subsequent advisories on the DEQ website.
- 1.6 Promulgate required regulations in accordance with the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act and the Administrative Procedures Act.
- 1.7 Continue development of a dry cleaner environmental response program.

Performance Indicators

Efficiency: Percent of verified mercury fish sampling results posted within 30 days on DEQ website
 Percent of official fish consumption advisories posted on the DEQ website

Objective 2:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the evaluation activity, will oversee the direction of the air quality monitoring network, ambient air data assessment and air emission inventory and ensure that 95% of emissions inventory data and 90% of ambient air data are validated annually for use in determining compliance with standards and reporting emissions between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 2.1 Oversee the design and implementation of the statewide ambient air quality network and evaluate the air monitoring data for trends and compliance with national and state air quality standards.
- 2.2 Maintain information on current standards to be used as a baseline for future environmental indicator processing (i.e. 1-hour average criteria).
- 2.3 Track the number of parishes compliant with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and delineate those parishes not meeting the standards
- 2.4 Track the number of days of ozone exceedances in non-attainment parishes.
- 2.5 Track number of stations not meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Vision 2020, objective 3.4.1).
- 2.6 Maintain an updated annual inventory of stationary point source emissions of criteria air pollutants and air toxics (Toxic Emissions Data Inventory) statewide and assess trends in emissions with special attention to areas not meeting standards.
- 2.7 Complete the 1999 Ozone Periodic Emission Inventory (point, area, non-road mobile, on-road mobile and biogenics) for the Baton Rouge ozone non-attainment area.
- 2.8 Provide requisite monitoring data for appropriate EPA databases.

Performance Indicator

Input: Number of parishes meeting air standards for 6 criteria pollutants.

Objective 3:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the evaluation activity, will make 100% of the Toxic Release Inventory data available to the public on the DEQ website between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 3.1 Coordinate the receiving, maintenance and reporting of the state's Toxic Release Inventory, including development and publication of the data for public access, required by LA Act 290 and Section 313 of EPCRA, or Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.
- 3.2 Monitor pounds of toxic chemicals released to the air and surface water (Vision 2020 objectives 3.4.2 and 3.4.5).

Performance Indicator

Efficiency: Percentage of the Toxic Release Inventory data available to the public on the DEQ website within 240 days of receipt of data.

Objective 4:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the evaluation activity, will track the cumulative percentage of ground water public water supply systems identified from the DHH database that participate in the DEQ Wellhead Protection Program. A participation level of 100% is expected by June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 4.1 Prioritize community drinking water systems for inclusion in the Wellhead Protection Program.
- 4.2 Delineate source water protection areas to be inventoried for potential sources of contamination to drinking water and locate all potential sources of contamination in the delineated area (Vision 2020, Objective 3.4.4).

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Cumulative percentage of groundwater public water supply systems identified from the DHH database that participate in the DEQ Wellhead Protection Program.

Objective 5:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the environmental technology and remediation services activities, will expedite remediation of high-priority Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facilities subject to corrective action in a manner which is protective of human health and the environment, by ensuring that 80% of these facilities have migration of contaminated ground water releases controlled between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 5.1 Oversee and streamline RCRA Corrective Action Program pace.
- 5.2 Focus program resources and actions at high-priority facilities.
- 5.3 Address immediate threats to human health and the environment and maximize actual environmental results by removal, treatment, or containment of contaminants.

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Cumulative percent of high-priority facilities with controls in place to prevent migration of contaminated ground water releases.

Objective 6:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the environmental technology and remediation services activities, will expedite remediation of high-priority RCRA facilities subject to corrective action in a manner which is protective of human health and the environment by ensuring that 80% of these facilities have human health exposures controlled between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 6.1 Oversee and streamline the pace of the RCRA Corrective Action Program.
- 6.2 Focus program resources and actions at high-priority facilities.
- 6.3 Address immediate threats to human health and the environment and maximize actual environmental results by removal, treatment, or containment of contaminants.

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Cumulative percent of high-priority facilities with controls in place to prevent human exposure problems.

Objective 7:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through environmental technology and remediation services activities, will direct the determination of the extent of contamination both laterally and vertically at sites with pollution by reviewing 90% of the soil and ground water investigation work plans and reports received in FY 2001 and progressing each fiscal year so that 100% of the investigation work plans and reports received in FY 2005 are reviewed in that fiscal year.

Strategies:

- 7.1 Guide and direct the investigation of sites identified as contaminated in the State by reviewing investigation work plans and reports.
- 7.2 Conduct appropriate administrative follow-up for each work plan or report.
- 7.3 Inspect investigation activities periodically to assure that work is being performed in accordance with the approved work plan.
- 7.4 Select potentially contaminated sites from Remediation Services Division data and assess to determine the existence of soil and/or groundwater contamination, according to established divisional procedures.
- 7.5 Seek to return sites to active commerce through Brownfields projects and/or the Voluntary Cleanup Program (Vision 2020 Objective 3.4.6).

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Percent of soil and ground water investigation work plans reviewed.

Objective 8:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the environmental technology and remediation services activities, will protect the soil and ground water resources of the state through oversight of soil and ground water remediation activities by reviewing 85% of the soil and ground water corrective action work plans and reports received in FY 2001 and progressing each fiscal year so that 100% of the corrective action work plans and reports received in FY 2005 are reviewed in that fiscal year.

Strategies:

- 8.1 Guide and direct the corrective action (remediation) of contaminated sites by reviewing corrective action work plans.
- 8.2 Conduct appropriate administrative follow-up for each work plan or report.
- 8.3 Inspect remediation activities periodically to assure that work is being performed in accordance with approved work plans.
- 8.4 Conduct comprehensive groundwater monitoring evaluations (CMEs) and operations and maintenance inspections (O&Ms).
- 8.5 Provide requisite RCRA data for appropriate EPA databases.

Performance Indicators

Outcome: Percent of soil and ground water corrective action work plans reviewed.

Efficiency: Percent of corrective actions initiated within 60 days of approval of the corrective action workplan.